

sub 2 E4
transmit the encoded combined audio data stream to a CODEC circuit.

16. (Amended) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instruction to acquire a second audio data stream in LPCM format comprise instructions to:
receive a second audio data stream in a third perceptually based format;
and
decode the second audio data stream into the LPCM format.

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19. (Thrice Amended) A method to combine diversely encoded data streams, comprising:
receiving a first data stream in a first compressed format;
decoding the first data stream into LPCM format;
obtaining a second data stream in LPCM format; and
combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream for receipt by a CODEC device.

In the Specification:

Please cancel lines 11-27 on page 2 of the specification (Summary).

Remarks

Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12 and 19 to clarify that applicants are claiming combining a plurality of LPCM format data streams.

The limitations in claim 1, 12 and 19 as currently amended are not disclosed or suggested by any of the prior art of record. Furthermore, combining two signals in LPCM format may avoid the very complex conversion system such as taught by the Farhangi, et al. reference. In particular, Farhangi, et al. appears to teach a system where each of the input signals must be converted into a common sample rate before it can be combined. This necessarily entails a complex system as they describe.

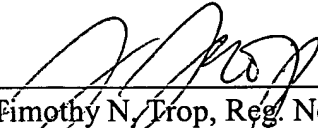
Applicants are including in appendix B a complete clean set of the pending claims for the Examiner's convenience.

Attached appendix A shows the changes to the claims. The Examiner is specifically requested to review those changes to ensure that the claims, as set forth herein, correspond accurately to the claims in the appendix and no inadvertent errors have occurred.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (INTL-0136-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 5-8.

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Thrice Amended) A method to combine diversely encoded audio data streams, comprising:

receiving a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;

decoding the first audio data stream into a linear pulse code modulated format;

obtaining a second audio data stream in a [raw] linear pulse code modulated format; and

combining the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data stream for receipt by a CODEC.

2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format before receipt by the CODEC.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the act of encoding the combined audio data stream into the [second] first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into an AC-3 format.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the act of encoding the combined audio data stream into the [second] first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into a MPEG-2 format.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining a second audio data stream in [a raw] LPCM format comprises:

receiving a second audio data stream in a [third] second perceptually based format; and

decoding the second audio data stream into the [raw] LPCM format.

12. (Twice Amended) A program storage device, readable by a programmable control device, comprising:

instructions stored on the program storage device for causing the programmable control device to

receive a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;

decode the first audio data stream into [a raw] LPCM format;

acquire a second audio data stream in [the raw] LPCM format;

combine the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data stream;

encode the combined audio data stream into a second perceptually based format; and

transmit the encoded combined audio data stream to a CODEC circuit.

16. (Amended) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instruction to acquire a second audio data stream in [a raw] LPCM format comprise instructions to:

receive a second audio data stream in a third perceptually based format;

and

decode the second audio data stream into the [raw] LPCM format.

19. (Thrice Amended) A method to combine diversely encoded data streams, comprising:

receiving a first data stream in a first compressed format;

decoding the first data stream into [an uncompressed] LPCM format;

obtaining a second data stream in [the uncompressed] LPCM format; and

combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream for receipt by a CODEC device.

Appendix B

Pending Claims

1. (Thrice Amended) A method to combine diversely encoded audio data streams, comprising:

receiving a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;
decoding the first audio data stream into a linear pulse code modulated format;
obtaining a second audio data stream in a linear pulse code modulated format; and
combining the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data stream

for receipt by a CODEC.

2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format before receipt by the CODEC.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the act of encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into an AC-3 format.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the act of encoding the combined audio data stream into the first perceptually based format comprises encoding the combined audio data stream into a MPEG-2 format.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of combining comprises mixing the first audio data stream and the second audio data stream to generate a single composite audio data stream.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of obtaining a second audio data stream in LPCM format comprises:

receiving a second audio data stream in a second perceptually based format; and
decoding the second audio data stream into the LPCM format.

12. (Twice Amended) A program storage device, readable by a programmable control device, comprising:

instructions stored on the program storage device for causing the programmable control device to

receive a first audio data stream in a first perceptually based format;
decode the first audio data stream into LPCM format;
acquire a second audio data stream in LPCM format;
combine the decoded first audio data stream with the second audio data stream;

encode the combined audio data stream into a second perceptually based format; and

transmit the encoded combined audio data stream to a CODEC circuit.

16. (Amended) The program storage device of claim 12, wherein the instruction to acquire a second audio data stream in LPCM format comprise instructions to:

receive a second audio data stream in a third perceptually based format; and
decode the second audio data stream into the LPCM format.

19. (Thrice Amended) A method to combine diversely encoded data streams, comprising:

receiving a first data stream in a first compressed format;
decoding the first data stream into LPCM format;
obtaining a second data stream in LPCM format; and
combining the decoded first data stream with the second data stream for receipt by a CODEC device.

20. The method of claim 19, further comprising encoding the combined data stream into a second compressed format before receipt by the CODEC device.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the first data stream comprises an audio data stream.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the compressed format comprises a MPEG format.